ESTABLISHED 1867.

WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1897.

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A SERIOUS QUESTION.

THE RIGHT OF THE POWERS TO BLOCKADE CRETE

A Violation of International Law-Interference With a Vessel of Another Nation an Act of War - Britishers Aroused Over An i-Betting Decision of the Courts. Tenants Along Route of the Queen's Jubilee Parade Given Notice to Quit. Fabulous Charges by Landlords.

(Copyright by New York Sun.)

London, March 20.-Why should not the government of the United States refuse to recognize the blockade of Crete? The terms of the official notice of the blockade which was issued by the British government in London today, are a direct viola tion of the law of nations. The notice directs: "The ships of the six powers of neutral powers may enter into the ports occupied by the powers and land their merchandise, but only if it is not for th Greek troops on the island. These ships may be visited by other ships of the international fleets." If any ship or officer of the blockading fleet undertakes to enforce these regulations against a vessel carrying the American flag it will be an act o war against the United States. There can be little doubt about the correctness of

Sir Walter Phillimore, who is a strong authority upon international law, thus puts the case of the rights, even of British citizens: "One should know whether the government has consulted its legal advisers as to certain eventualities, which are not unlikely to follow upon this socalled blockade of Crete. Supposing that a British ship, seeing a chance of doing a good trade in provisions, sails for a port in Crete, she will be perfectly legal in her rights and it will be illegal to stop her. We are not at war with Greece or Crete, so it will not be a case of trading with an enemy, and nothing short of an act of parliament can take away the right of any British subject to go to or trade with Crete. Suppose this ship was stopped and turned back. There will be an irresistible claim for damages at the suit of the sufferers against the captain of the British man-of-war. Suppose it had sunk her. The damage will be greater. Suppose one of her crew is drawned. I see no defense

to an indictment for murder. 'The rights of an American vessel would, of course, be stronger. Secretary Sherman will receive today from Mr. Paunceforte or through the American here a formal notice of the from Lord Salisbury. Every American in London is anxious to know what his answer will be. It is not only a splendid opportunity to make use of the tremendous influence which a declaration of this American view of the eastern policy of the great powers will carry, but it is of genuine practical importance as well. it is the avowed purpose of the six powers to starve out the Greek troops in Crete. No account is made of the incidental starvation of the native population. There is food enough now in the interior of the island to last several weeks. It is entirely within the right of the people of New York, for instance, to send a cargo of supplies to the beleagured inhabitants. Is the admini tration at Washington ready to enforce ',hat right?'

A subject which has disturbed a large class of Englishmen this week much more than the crisis in the east is a decision of the full court of queen's bench, to the effect that a betting ring at a race track is "a place" within the meaning of the anti-gambling law of 1853. This is really a serious matter, compared with which such trifles as the blockade of Crete or the impending war between Greece and Turkey are not to be considered. Nearly all the newspapers of England condemn the monstrous decision of the court, or, rather, the law under which it is made. It means a death blow to turf betting in England, and as this is one of the most sacred institutions of the country, the great popular uprising of the past few days is by no means surprising. It must be admitted that the court had no choice in the matter. Its decision was pronounced by Sir Henry Hawkins, who is one of ne himself reluctantly declared from the bench, to rule that a betting enclosure at a race track was not "a place;" but England is speaking almost as with one voice in the matter, The Pall Mall Gazette in a patriotic, soul-stirring leader on the subject, points out the dreadful the court's action. "Bookmakers and their clients," it says, 'are to be deprived of the guarantees implied by deposits and acknowledgments and are to be reduced to betting on the nod, with all the temptation to repudiation and evasion of settlement. It is the old story of legislation attempting, and signally failing, to regulate morality. The law, as declared by the decision, is down right nonsense. It must, of course, be There is no doubt of the public's re-

sponse to this appeal. England may be indifferent to the slaughter of a few thousand Armenians or to the shelling of Christian nuns by British ships, but a grievance such as this last must and will be wiped out. The storm of public protest is so great that it has frightened the anti-gambling league, which was the plaintiff in the case which caused the decision. Its secretary has hastened to avert the threatened doom of himself and associates by writing to The Pall Mall Gazette that "the editor is quite mistaken in supposing that any legal or leglative aim of ours have ever been to sweep away betting altogether. All we ever dreamed of attempting was the suppression of betting as a trade, to which nine-tenths of the evils of betting are There is little doubt that some amendment of the act of 1853 which will enable Englishmen once more to bet on the Derby without running the risk of the loser repudiating his losses, will be speedily introduced in parliament. Perhaps it will be allowed to pass by unanimous consent. Some very mean men have got to work

in connection with Queen Victoria's forthcoming so-called diamond jubilee and they are having a very good time, despite the denunciation of people who think they have a monopoly of all the virtues. The inners on this occasion are the owners of house property in the poorer quarters United States, growls were heard, from along the route of the royal procession of June 22nd. This class of property is almost invariably let on weekly or monthly tenancies, but the common people, oblivious of their frail tenure, have been ed into a roar since the publication of letting their windows at prices which in his last book, which in the opinion of every case would pay their rent for a whole year. This has exceedingly grieved the owners who, fearing the poor tenants will be permanently harmed by such transient prosperity and perhaps take to Above and beyond specific offences, drink and thus bring discredit on the jubilee, to the shame of all loyal subjects, have proceeded sorrowfully, but firmly, to give all their tenants notice to quit, and out they will have to go long before the jubilee day, in order to make room for their betters. The people who have hired windows from the poor tenants have no remedy, but have to grin and bear it or to make terms with the mean men at about 500 per cent. advance upon the tenants' prices. It is claimed for the owners, however, that they cannot be wholly vile, for in many cases they have graciously permitted their tenants to remain on condition that they abandon their sordid money-making schemes and give up possession of the premises for a week before and a week after jubilee day. What all this means to the owners may be judged from a single instance, where a house let to a monthly tenant at an annual rental of \$300, was let by the tenant for jubilee day for \$400. But the owner stepped in, gave the tenant notice to quit, and now offers the house for the day for \$1,000. | tion.

WELDON'S WATER POWER

To Be Further Developed - Edward V. Howell Elected a Professor of the University-An Inquiry for North Caorlina Railway Stock.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 20.-It is said that the Murfreesboro railway will apply for permission to take up its track which is six miles in length. It is operated by the Seaboard Air Line.

The executive committee of the trustees of the university today elected Edward Vernon Howell, of Rocky Mount, professor of the new chair of pharmacy. He is a graduate of Wake Forest and took special course of Johns Hopkins and at Philadelphia, taking highest honors. He is a nephew of Dr. W. I. Royster, of Raleigh. The executive committee appointed a sub committee to look after the improvements of the electric lighting plant and water supply of the university.

Major James W. Wilson met ex-Senators Don Cameron, of Pennsylvania, and Butler, of South Carolina, at Weldon today and arranged for further development of the power there. An ice mnufacturing plant will be put he moved over to Rescue, only to get

It is said here that telegrams were sent this week to Charlotte banks by some person who was trying to buy North Carolina railway stock. It is conjectured that the person wishing to buy was the governor or his agent.

THE EXTRA APPROPRIATION

Not to be Paid Until a Surplus is Found to Exist After Paying the Necessary Expen ses of the State Government-The Commissionership of Agriculture.

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., March 20.-The state treasurer today notified the heads of the various state institutions, charitable and educational, that owing to the large appropriations made by the legislature and the decrease in the value of property, he cannot pay any extra appropriations this year or until he finds there is a surplus after paying the interest on the 4 per cent. bonds and the necessary runing expenses of the state government. He says he gives this notice to prevent making of contracts which might embarrass the di-

It is said that D. Reid Parker will fail to get the commissionership of agriculture and that a majority of the boar a are pledged to J. M. Mew-

The First Week of Congress.

Washington, March 20.-The first week of the extraordinary session of the Fifty-fifth congress closed with today's session of the house of representatives. The record made was extraordinary. The tariff bill has been reported and the order regulating its discussion adopted. Four appropriation the leading spirits of the Jockey Club and | bills, which failed to become laws in who is often described as the "sporting the Fifty-fourth congress, necessary judge." It would have been absurd, as for the prosecution of important parts for the prosecution of important parts of the public service, carrying a total of over \$72,000,000, have been passed, with the exception of one paragraph, as they were finally agreed upon by the last house. Two of these, the agricultural and the Indian, were considered and disposed of today. The former was passed, as had been the sundry civil and the general deficiency bill yesterday, without change. The time allowed for debate on this bill permitted Mr. Champ Clark to make a characteristic speech upon the subject of the rules. He withdrew all previous criticisms of the senate and thanked God that it still remained a deliberative assembly. The action of the house yesterday and today, he termed the most amazing and astounding per formances ever witnessed on the continent. One feature of the Indian bill provoked much opposition and was finally stricken out, by unanimous consent, before the bill passed. This was the paragraph opening the gilsonite or asphalt lands in the Uncompangre reservation in Utah to entry under the mineral laws, which the senate had added to the bill. Several resolutions were offered and agreed to, making appropriations for mileage, stationary, and pay of session employes immediately available.

> until Monday at 10 o'clock a. m., when the debate on the tariff bill will be taken up.

At 3:55 o'clock the house adjourned

Ian Maclaren in Trouble

(Copyright by New York Sun.) London, March 20.-Rev. Dr. John Watson, otherwise Ian Maclaren, is likely to be in hot water. Long before went on his lecturing tour of the Scotland as to his alleged unorthodox doctrines and general worldiness. These mutterings have almost deepenmany worthy, it narrowminded Presbyterians, is distinctly Unitarian in its teachings, if not downright heretical, however, the dissentients object to a minister of the Presbyterion church engaging in the sinful work of writing novels, and they propose to ask the offender to give explanations and express contrition at a synod convened to meet at Sunderland at the end of April.

The Sinking of the Greek Schooner.

Athens, March 20.-The Austrian charge d'affairs having replied to the Greek protest against the sinking of a Greek schooner off Cape Dia, Crete, by the Austrian gunboat Sebenico, that the schooner was fired upon because of an attack upon the gunboat by Cretan insurgents, the Greek government has consented to await the result of inquiries into the affair, which are now proceeding, before taking further ac-

DEATH AND DESOLATION.

APPALLING NEWS FROM THE FLOODED DISTRICTS.

The Area Under Water Equal to the State of Missouri-The Condition of Affairs Not Yet at Its Worst-Levees Breaking. Towns Flooded-The Rescuers at Work. All Tell the Same Story of Desolation Everywhere.

Helena, Ark., March 20.-The river situation here this morning is no better. In fact, it looks more serious, and work is going on night and day raising the levees from one end of the city to the other. The water is coming in the north suburbs, where it has been expected for several days, but it only affect a portion of the town occupied by small cabins principally, and no danger to the city proper is apprehended. The Y. & M. V. railroad people are at work with 100 men on their tracks which run on the top of the

levee almost the entire river front. The Kate Adams brought up a dozen families this morning from the overflooded district below, among them C. W. Alfray, who has been living at Modoc until within a few days ago, when into it worse than ever, the levee breaking at Rescue last night. He left this morning at 5 o'clock and at the time the break was 200 feet wide and growing all the time. Major Dabney is there with quarter boats and the Ralph has also gone down and will look after the rescuing of the people and

This break will undoubtedly relieve us here soon, but at the present time there has been no perceptible change. The river is rising very slowly. The water has gone over the levee below Modoc and is flooding the White river bottoms .The people down there have all gotten out of the way and no loss of life is expected. It was reported this ater, refuted.

Vicksburg, Miss., March 20.-The weather this morning is very favorable to the permanency of the levees, being calm, warm ,and bright, Tools and material are being rushed forward on every train to the levees in Mississippi The Valley route reports all the levees intact today. There is no news from the Lea levees. The river rose eight tenths of a foot here in the past twentyfour hours. This is an abnormal rise at this stage of water and it is now 44% feet. The Yazoo, now banks full. is largely responsible for this.

St. Louis, Mo., March 20.-The warning sent out by the government signal service yesterday that the Mississippi river and all its tributaries would continue to rise has been fulfilled to the letter. The communication with the flooded section has become difficult, but dispatches received from widely sepal rated points show that all have suffered alike. It is estimated that a section of country with an area equal to that of the state of Missouri is now under water and that the worst is not over. Advices from Cairo, Paducah, Mem-

phis and Helena show that the region north of New Madrid, Mo., west to and including the valleys of the St. Francis. the White and the Arkansas rivers in Arkansas, east, in Kentucky and Tennessee, the valleys of the Tennessee. the Cache, the Obion and the Yazoc rivers, and south to the Red river, are under water. The intervening ranges of hills and high ground are the only places of refuge. The dispatches received here tell but

one story-lives lost, stock drowned and a country desolated. At Cairo, Ills. today, the river reached 50 feet and was rising slowly, which is but one foot short of the high record of 1883. Al' the country south of there to Memphis is submerged. A relief steamer from the flats below Bird's Point has brought in four families. It is reported that a flat boat containing a number of people was sunk at island No. 10. All the cotton fields in the valley of Forked Deer river in Tennessee are under water.

The Memphis relief association has five boats at work. These boats go to points that are some twenty miles from streams navigable in ordinary stages of water. The unanimous opinion of St. Louis river men is that tha conditions must become worse before there can be permanent relief. They say that numerous breaks in the lower levees are really blessings as they are natural outlets for the deluge that is certain to come from the melting snows of the north.

Princeton, Ind., March 20.-On account of the rapidly rising waters, peol ple are deserting the Wabash, the Pa toka and the White river bottoms and making all possible haste to the hills Many of the unfortunate have no boats and are compelled to wade in water from one to two feet deep. One poor fellow waded in water up to his waist several miles, carrying his wife in his who was dying with malarial

The general thaw of the past week has started the ice in Logan and Elkhorn rivers and towns along their banks have been threatened with floods, but only two of any importance on the Logan river, is tonight partly submerged, and Norfolk, the sugar beet factory city of Madison county, is in several feet of water. While the Missouri river is very high, the danger point has not been reached.

Memphis, Tenn., March 20.-The most important development in the flood situation today is the break that occurred last night at Sans Souci on the Arkansas side, about seventy-five miles north. It was 200 feet wide. On the same stretch of levee a section of ten miles between Elmort and Osceola has been abandoned because the water was higher than its top. South of here the gravest danger exists at Australia. on the Mississippi side, where a break is imminent. A break is reported th have occurred at Rescue, near Friars Point. However, it is only a pocket levee. On the Arkansas side the leved from Modoc to Avenue in the Helena district has been abandoned for more important and urgent work at Yellov) Banks. At the latter place the water is two feet higher than the regular level, but sacks of sands are employed against the excess and are thus far holding well. The river here has remained stationary all day, due in some measure to the breaks in and overflows

of levees above.

WHOLESALE POISONING.

Shocking Revelations of the Custom of Wife and Husband Murdering in Austria and Hungary.

(Copyright by New York Sun.) London, March 20.-If the attention

of the European world was not absorbed by the threatened march of great events, popular interest would be directed in a large measure to the astounding revelations which are being made this week in the criminal courts of Hungary and Austria. A dozen women are on trial in one town for poisoning their husbands, and it is freely admitted that theirs are only typical cases which illustrate what is almost an universal custom in the country districts of the region. Husband poisoning, it was cooly announced in court, is as common a calling as midwifery and the public prosecutor declared that he only proceeded with these few cases because the culprits had confessed and desired to break up the practice. A trial in Vienna which ended in a sentence of death yesterday showed what an important part arsenic played in the domestic economy of the inhabitants of Styria. A peasant named Shmallefoer began shortly after his marriage in 1891 to have intimate Penisiph with whose assistance he poisoned his wife by mixing arsenic in her food. He married his paramour, and her foster sister, Kathrinia Mill, then only 15 years old entering his services, in 1895 he also became intimate with her and murdered his second wife, as he did his first, by sprinkling arsenic over pieces of meat on her plate which, while she was away, were turned over in order that she might not see the powder on her return to the table. Two children, girls of 2 and 3 years, asked their mother for more meat, and as she gave it to them from her own plate, the father had to sit by and see his children eat poison. He managed, morning that the levee had broken at however, to keep silent in order not to Ok, twelve miles above, but this was, betray himself. The children recovered but the mother died. Suspicion being aroused an exhumation of the body of the first wife took place, and, speaking of it in court, a chemist made the remark that all the village cemteries in Styria were full of arsenic.

JACKSON AND WALLING HANGED

Another Effort to Gain Executive Clemen. cy for Walling Failed-Jackson Wired Admitted to be a Fake.

Cincinnati, Ohio, March 20.-The once promising lives of Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling, the young dental students, paid the penalty today on the gal- board, was so extremely anxious to country girl, Pearl Bryan, of Green Cas- and it is learned that it is because he same time of the tiny spark of life that ifax convict farm. had driven her to desperation through fear of open shame. The scene was Fort Thomas and the date February 1, 1896. The victim was decapitated to prevent identification and the head has never been located. The arrests, trials, "confessions" and general progress to the awful sequel of the tragedy this morning in New- and \$343,000 in silver on hand.

Nearly all forenoon Walling's fate seemed swaying in the balance, and the 5,000 eople, with a plentiful sprinkling of richy uniformed militia guards, waited with interest at highest tension for the springing of the fatal trap or the announcement of the clemency extended by Governor

Walling went to sleep at 1 o'clock this morning, and slumbered unbrokenly until o'clock. Jackson slept little. From that early hour until the final announcement that both must hang at 11:30 o'clock, the prisoners sat at the window of the jail facing the crowded court house yard, with every appearance of unconcern. On the gallows neither was deserted by the "gameness" that has marked their conduct ever since they first posed before the public in the celebrated tragedy.

At 11:40 o'clock the double trap was sprung and they swung in mid-air twenty minutes before the horrible work of strangulation was completed. The hour originally set was 7 o'clock

but almost as the start was made for the gallows Jackson made another "confession," in which he said Walling was not guilty of "willful murder." Again the governor was appealed to at Frankfort by wire, Jackson himself telegraphed him: Walling is not guilty of this crime, but I am." Finally Governor Bradley, after patient investigation of Jackson's tardy attempt to save his comrade, including a long distance telephone consultation with Judge Helm, the trial judge, and the attorneys in the case, sealed the doom of both by declaring against further delay. Jackson is said to have left still another written confession, to be published or not as his friends may see fit. The one of Thursday diabolically trying to shift a part of the crime on an innocent man, both Jackson and Walling acknowledged this morning to be a fake.

The body of Jackson was shipped this evening over the Big Four road to his former home at Wininsoc, Maine. Walling's body was taken to Hamilton, Ohio, by his family, for burial.

The Contest Between Court and President Pretoria, March 20.—The judges of the loccasional spice.

Pretoria, March 20.—The judges of the loccasional spice. have replied to the recent letter addressed to them by President Kruger, in which the president demanded that the judges conform to the law passed by the Volksraad within fourteen days, and warned the judges against arrogating to themselves the right to place their own interpretation upon the constitution of the country. In their reply the judges agree not to contest the resolutions of the Volksraad, provided that a bill be passed placing the high court upon a firmer basis of independence of special legislation. The president has consented to place before the Volksraad such propositions as the judges have suggested.

Only One New Warship Provided For Berlin, March 20 .- The Reichstag today by a vote of 245 to 91, adopted the decision of the budget commission to grant an extra credit for the construc-

tion of one new steel clad warship. Prior to voting on the question of a grant for the construction of one steel clad warship, the reichstag by a vote of 204 to 143 rejected the government's demand for credits for two new cruisers. Then without a division the chamber rejected the demand for increased credits wherewith to construct new torpedo boats. CARLES TO MINE STATE OF THE STA

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

OUTLOOK IN THIS STATE BETTER THAN IN MANY YEARS.

Copies of the New School Law Being Distributed-The Governor Will Announce His Directors of the North Carolina Railroad This Week-Excursion of Northern Editors-Heavy Sales of Fertilizers Anticipated-Quarterly Statement of the Banks in the State.

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel.

Raleigh, N. C., March 20. The superintendent of public instruction is sending out the new public school law, which is certainly a great improvement on the very defective one

Miss Edna Robeson, the executive clerk, will retire from that place April 1st. It seems that her appointment was only temperary during the legislative session.

By the middle of next week the governor will, it is intimated, make public the names of the new directors of the North Carolina railway. The statement is made that the governor has relations with a servant named Marie had to make changes in these, as some owned no stock in the road and as director is required to own at least five shares. The statement also is that the governor has been endeavoring to buy some stock for the new men and possibly has secured some.

Work on the Moore county and Western railway has begun at the Concord end. The outlook for railway construction in the state is more promising than in seven or eight years.

The total amount of the direct land tax which was unclaimed was \$62,000. Of this \$25,000 was used in making the state exhibit at the world's fair and the remainder was covered into the

ho was shot here, was on trial yesterday afternoon and was duly commit-

This city will receive in handsome style the editors from the New England and Middle states who are to arrive on the special excursion over the Seaboard Air Line April 3rd.

The sales of commercial fertilizers this season are expected to equal or nearly equal those last season-which broke the record. The outlook is that, the Governor That Walling Was Not despite all efforts to secure a reduction Guilty-Their Confessions of Last Week of the acreage, a very large cotton crop will be planted. No less than 1,700,000 tax tags, each for a 200 pound sack, were sold in 1896.

Ed. Clark, of the new penitentiary lows for the murder of the sweet-faced take charge of all the offices at once, tle, Ind., and the extinguishing at the desires to have the control of the Hal-

Inquiry was made as to why Senator

The funeral of William G. Burkhead Esq., was held here today from Edenton street M. E. church, of which his father was formerly the pastor.

The quarterly statement of the ninety-one banks in this state shows \$5,-396,813 capital, \$1,141,722 surplus, \$715, 429 undivided profits; \$9,701,303 individof today have been largely of the spec- ual deposits subject to check, \$707,000 tacular order, especially the closing hours of bank note currency, \$609,000 in gold

The revenue officers at Carthage day before yesterday found a notorious moonshiner secreted in a trunk in his house. He is now in jail.

One of the several acts regarding the Atlantic and North Carolina railway, which was ratified at the late legislative session, was to give power to the governor to throw the road into a receiver's hands in case there is any attempt to balk his purposes. The receivership can continue as long as de-

A Distressing Tragedy.

Richmond, Va., March 20.-A Danville special to The Dispatch says: A distressing tragedy occurred here today, as a result of which J. L. Littlejohn is dead and his wife has a broken arm and is otherwise seriously injured Littlejohn, a middle-aged white man, kept a small grocery store on the corner of Lloyd and Upper streets. Just about noon today, without warning, he attacked his wife with a stout hickory cane, badly cutting and bruising her about the head and body and breaking her left arm before neighbors, attracted by her cries, could interfere. W. C. Williams, one of those who came to the unfortunate wife's rescue, volunteered to go for a doctor and as he turned to do so Littlejohn felled him with a blow of his cudgel, knocking him insensible, and making an ugly contusion of the scalp. By this time Police Officers Williams and Hutson arrived, arrested Littlejohn and took him to jail. Three hours later he was found dead in his cell. Investigation developed that he had swallowed laudanum before attacking his wife. The assault and suicide are attributed to sudden dementia. The deceased went on occasional sprees and had been drink-

A Fatal Railway Wreck.

Cumberland, Md., March 20 - Ten perraad on February 25th, placing the high sons were injured and one killed in a court under the jurisdiction of the Volks- wreck on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near Oakland, Md., this morning. Train No. 2, from Cincinnati and St. Louis, was derailed. Three sleepers, two day coaches and the postal car left the track. One sleeper rolled down the embankment and into the Yougigheny river. The balance the train remained on the bridge, or doubtless the casualties would have been much greater. There were thirty-eight persons in the car which rolled into the river, all of whom escaped with trifling injuries except two. General J. S. Fuller-ton, of St. Louis, a union veteran of Chickamauga fame, was killed. Fifty workmen searched the river all day, but were unable to find the body. The current is so swift at the point where the accident occurred that it is believed the corpse has been carried down stream. A reward for its recovery has been offered

by the railroad company. It is thought that none of the injured with the possible exception of Mrs Phelps, who was badly cut and bruised and received internal injuries, are fatally hurt. They were brought to Cumberland on a special train and received med ical attention at the Western Maryland hospital. All the injured were placed in a special Pullman tonight and continued the journey eastward.

THE CABINET PERPLEXED.

It Does Not Know What to Do With the Demand of the Dauntlessa for Clearance of a Cargo of Munitions of War.

Washington, March 19.-The cabinet at its regular meeting today took up the whole question of violations of the neutrality and navigation laws by Cuban filibusters, with a view to deciding upon some definite policy. No conclusion was reached at the special conference held Wednesday between the president, Secretary Sherman, Secretary Gage, Attorney General McKenna and Secretary Long. The subject of granting clearance papers to vessels loaded with arms and munitions of war was left open with the understanding that the attorney general should examine the iaw and precedents and render the opinion requested by the treasury department on the application of the steamer Dauntless to clear from Jacksonville with a cargo of arms and ammunition. That opinion was received at the treasury department today. In view of the fact, however, that the president and cabinet desired to give further consideration to the matter, the attorney general does not state any definite conclusions on which the department can act. He leaves the question of granting clearance papers to the discretion of the

treasury for the time being. The cabinet meeting adjourned once more without deciding upon any definite plan of action in regard to the Dauntless case, which has come to be regarded as a test case in respect to the policy of the administration. Attorney General McKenna, following the well known rule of the department of justice and of the supreme court. has declined to give a definite opinion upon anything short of an actual state of facts. Supposed cases are not made the basis of opinions. The United States officials at Jacksonville, Fla., have been directed to supply more definite information as to the legal status of the vessels in the United States courts there. The condition of the appeal taken by the federal government from Judge Locke's decision will also be ascertained and its final disposition may be awaited before anything Thomas Burch, the negro burglar is done in the Dauntless' case.

TWO FATAL PRIZE FIGHTS.

Edward Gibbons Killed by a Blow Similar to the One Which Knocked Out Corbett. Another Death From Effect of a Blow in

Philadelphia, March 20.-Last night, in a boxing bout at the Tenth Ward Democratic Club, Samuel S. Perry struck Edward Gibbons a blow near the heart similar to the one with which Fitzsimmons defeated Corbett, and at 12:30 o'clock this morning Gibbons died. The contest was one of a number on the programme of entertainment of the club, and the men were good friends. For two rounds the contest continued without much damage being done, although it was clear to the spectators that Gibbons was no match for Perry. In the third round the men sparred for a minute, and Perry, who had decidedly the better of the argument stepped in close and shot a hard jab into Gibbons' body. His glove landed just under the heart, and the recipient staggered back, but did not fall. At this point Referee Gillespie ordered the bout stopped, declaraing that Gibbons was clearly unmatched, and the two men took off their gloves. Perry went home, while Gibbons after dressing stayed about the club house some time. Suddenly he complained of feeling sick and began vomiting blood. This alarmed the crowd, and Dr. Curry was called to see after him. The physician found the man badly injured from internal hurts, due to the shock, and as he continued to sink ordered his removal to the hospital. Gibbons was taken to a hospital in a comatose condition and with the blood coming from his mouth. No marks were visible to show where the blow landed, but the patient continued to sink, and at 12:30 o'clock he

Perry was arrested at his home. He declared that the bout was friendly and that he did not hit Gibbons very hard. Martin Comber, a well known custom house employe and the president of the club, was arrested this mornig, as were also James O'Neill, who seconded Gibbons, and Sam Farrell, a spectator. Perry was arraigned before Magistrate Jermean today and committed to jail to await the action of the coroner. Comber, O'Nell! and Referee Gillespie were held in \$800

bail each as accessories. Another death as the result of a box ing bout occurred this morning at St Mary's hospital. Christian Keilnecker, aged 46 years, was the victim. On Thursday night Kellnecker and Frank Connelly, aged 35 years, engaged in a glove contest Fourth and Oxford streets, and Keilnecker was badly worsted. The latter went to his home, and yesterday he was found unconscious in bed and was removed to the hospital. Keilnecker's face presented a sorry spectacle. His right eye was closed, and his nose and forehead were badly contused. Shortly after his admission to the hospital the injured man developed delirium tremens, which, the doctor says, was superinduced by the treatment he received. Connelly was taken into custody yesterday. It is not known whether cloves were used, although it is claimed by mutual friends of Connelly and Keilnecker that it was a friendly bout. Connelly is a much larger man than Keilnecker. The latter had been drinking heavily of late. This morning he died.

Mr. Henry Robinson Explains.

Washington, March 20.-The attention of the department of agriculture has been drawn to the publication in Liverpool of alleged official informacotton crop of 1896. Mr. Henry A. Robinson, statistician of the department, thinks it well for the public to know that no official information of the nature claimed has been given out. The nature and state of the work the it impossible that the ascertions contained therein could have had any substantial foundation or any verification of value either public or private. In making this disclairmer, Mr. Robeinson does not wish to be understood as denying or affirming any of the Liverpool statements.

Populists Get No Encouragement From Mr. Reed.

Washington, March 20.-The populist members of the senate and house held a joint caucus tonight for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed to confer with Speaker Reed about representation on the committee of ways and means and other committees. The committee reported that they got no encouragement from the speaker and the caucus directed that the communication to him which stated their reasons for their demand be published.